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Part IV

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposed Framework for Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

Proposed Frameworks for Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Supplemental proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document supplements proposed rulemakings published in the **Federal Register** on March 25 and July 8, 1981, and proposes to establish frameworks, (i.e., the outer limits for dates and times when shooting may occur, hunting areas, and the number of birds which may be taken and possessed) for late season migratory bird hunting regulations for the 1981–82 season. These seasons generally commence on or about October 1, 1981, and include most of those for waterfowl.

Except as noted, frameworks will be similar to those in effect last hunting season. The Service plans to continue its program of stabilized duck hunting frameworks into the 1981–82 hunting season as the second year of a 5-year cooperative study with Canada. In the Atlantic Flyway, the Service proposes to allow or modify duck season zoning arrangements in 4 States, extend the lengths of the Canada goose seasons in 3 States and the snow goose season throughout the flyway, and reopen the brant season on a limited basis. Zoning changes are proposed for several Mississippi Flyway States, goose quota reductions are specified for Illinois and Wisconsin, and changes are proposed in the goose limits and transportation regulations in portions of the flyway. In the Central Flyway, duck zoning options are offered in 4 States on an experimental basis while other States may divide their duck seasons into 3 segments. Longer seasons are proposed for Canada geese in designated portions of South Dakota and Nebraska, and white geese only in New Mexico. Four States may designate goose seasons by zones. In the Pacific Flyway, more liberal goose regulations are planned for several areas frequented by the Rocky Mountain Population of Canada Geese; for white geese in portions of California, Oregon, and Washington; and for cackling and white-fronted geese in portions of California. The Service proposes to allow whistling swan hunting in Cascade County, Montana, with no increase in the number of permits allocated to the State.

The Service annually prescribes hunting regulations frameworks to the States. The effects of this proposed rule are to facilitate the selection of hunting seasons by the States and to further the establishment of the late season migratory bird hunting regulations for the 1981–82 season.

DATES: The comment period for these proposed late season frameworks will end on August 24, 1981.

ADDRESS: Comments to: Director (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments received on the supplemental proposed late season frameworks will be available for public inspection during normal business hours in Room 525–B, Matomic Building, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, D.C. Copies of the environmental assessment on stabilization of hunting regulations are available from the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. The Service's biological opinions resulting from its consultation under Section 7, Endangered Species Act, are available for public inspection in or available from the Office of Endangered Species and the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John P. Rogers, Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240 (202–254–3207).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918 (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq), as amended, authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior, having due regard for the zones of temperature and for the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of flight of migratory game birds to determine when, to what extent, and by what means such birds or any part, nest, or egg thereof may be taken, hunted, captured, killed, possessed, sold, purchased, shipped, carried, exported, or transported.

On March 25, 1981, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter the Service) published for public comment in the **Federal Register** (46 FR 18666) proposals to amend 50 CFR Part 20, with comment periods ending July 16, and August 24, 1981, respectively, for the 1981–82 early and late hunting frameworks. That document dealt with the establishment of hunting seasons, hours, areas, and limits for migratory game birds under §§ 20.101 through 20.107 and 20.109 of Subpart K. On July 8, 1981, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (46 FR 35316) a second document consisting of a supplemental proposed rulemaking dealing with both the early and late season frameworks. On July 13, 1981, the Service published for public comment in the **Federal Register** (46 FR 35056) a third document consisting of a proposed rulemaking dealing specifically with frameworks for early season migratory bird hunting regulations. On July 29, 1981, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (46 FR 38868) a fourth document consisting of a final rulemaking for the early season frameworks for migratory game bird hunting regulations from which State wildlife conservation agency officials selected early season hunting dates, hours, areas, and limits for the 1981–82 season. The Service anticipates publishing in the **Federal Register** in the near future a document consisting of a final rule amending Subpart K of 50 CFR 20 to set hunting seasons, hours, areas, and limits for mourning doves, white-winged doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, woodcock, snipe, and gallinules; September teal seasons; sea ducks in certain defined areas of the Atlantic flyway; ducks in September in four States; sandhill cranes in designated portions of North Dakota and South Dakota; and migratory game birds in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands during 1981–82.

Review of Public Comments and the Service's Response

Comments Received at Public Hearing

Seven individuals presented statements at the August 4 Public Hearing on the proposed late season frameworks. These statements are summarized below, and when appropriate, responded to by the Service. Some comments related to matters other than the proposed annual hunting frameworks, and thus were irrelevant.

Mr. Larry Soileau, speaking on behalf of 14 States comprising the Mississippi Flyway Council, stated that the Service's proposed hunting frameworks were appropriate and in keeping with habitat conditions and the status of various migratory game bird populations. He reported that the Council favored continuation of the stabilized duck hunting regulations.

Mr. Kay Cool, representing the Central Flyway Council, which is comprised of 10 mid-western States, recommended that no changes be made in the duck hunting regulations and that the Service continue its program of stabilized regulations. No changes were recommended in the frameworks for

"light" geese even though larger fall flights were anticipated. For "dark" geese, he recommended that Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wyoming be allowed to set seasons by zones, and that the bag limit in Montana be increased from 2 to 3 birds daily. Mr. Cool suggested that slight relaxations be made in the daily bag limits and season lengths for Canada geese in designated counties of Nebraska and South Dakota along the Missouri River because of the excessive numbers wintering there. Detailed recommendations and justifications by the Central Flyway Council were provided for the record.

Recommendations by the 11 contiguous States of the Pacific Flyway Council were presented by Mr. Eldridge Hunt. The Council proposed continuation of the stabilized duck hunting regulations which were in effect last season. Moderate relaxations of hunting regulations for Rocky Mountain Canada geese in 10 States and white geese in portions of California, Oregon, and Washington were recommended in anticipation of increased fall flights. Similarly, relaxations for cackling and white-fronted geese were proposed in California. The Council proposed that whistling swan hunting be permitted in Cascade County, Montana, with no increase in the number of hunting permits authorized for the State. The Council also indicated support of a brief experimental sandhill crane season in the Wilcox Basin Area of southeastern Arizona, with provisions for protecting whooping cranes should any appear in the area. Copies of the Council's detailed recommendations and justifications were filed for the administrative record.

The Atlantic Flyway Council's late season framework recommendations were described by Mr. William Wagner. The Council, comprised of 17 eastern States, supported continuation of the stabilized regulations experiment for ducks. A reopening of the brant season, closed since 1974–75, was proposed in view of the expanding population and anticipated good production this summer. Biologist will ascertain actual production success in northern Canada this month and monitor status of sea lettuce, a staple autumn and winter food of brant, in New Jersey. Season extensions were recommended for Canada geese in Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island; and for snow geese throughout the flyway in view of increasing crop depredation and nuisance complaints arising from these expanding goose populations. Mr. Wagner informed the Service of the Council's intention early in 1982 to request a limited whistling swan hunting season in North Carolina.

Mr. Dale Whitesell, representing Ducks Unlimited, provided additional waterfowl population and habitat data obtained by his organization's Canadian biologists. The data supported Service survey findings. Ducks Unlimited endorsed continuation of the stabilized duck hunting regulations study, noting that resources made available by simplifying the annual hunting regulations setting process could be redirected to preserving habitat.

The National Audubon Society was represented by Mr. John M. Anderson. He supported the principle of stabilized duck hunting regulations on the ground that relationships between duck-hunting regulations, harvests, and populations are not yet well understood and should be clarified in the interest of better conservation and management.

Response. The Service notes that essentially all the foregoing recommendations offered by the respective waterfowl flyway councils, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Audubon Society are incorporated in the late season frameworks now being proposed for additional public comment.

Sr. Fernando Giovanni, Mexico Direccion General de Fauna Silvestre, offered several views on behalf of his agency. He noted that Mexico was particularly interested in management programs and problems which affect the three flyways which provide birds to Mexico. He reported that Mexico is working closely with Ducks Unlimited and the National Audubon Society in preserving waterfowl habitats. Sr. Giovanni expressed the view that Mexico, the United States, and Canada must work together in maintaining the migratory bird resource as no single nation can claim it as its own. He conveyed Mexico's desire to work cooperatively on regulatory matters and offered to provide information on Mexico's migratory bird program.

Response. The Service appreciates having the views expressed by the representative from Mexico, and intends to discuss these matters further with Mexican and Canadian officials.

Written Comments Received

In the **Federal Register** dated July 8, 1981 (at 46 FR 35316), the Service reported and responded to all public comments which had been received up to June 3, 1981, on the late season frameworks. Twenty-one written comments were received subsequent to that time, and through August 6, 1981. These are summarized and responded to below in the numerical order that various regulatory items were listed in the **Federal Register** dated March 25, 1981 (46 FR 18666).

The comments originated from 11 State conservation agencies, 4 organizations, 2 individuals, and 1 flyway council. Respondents sometimes submitted more than one communication. Sometimes the letters did not specifically mention the open comment period or regulatory proposals. However, because they were received during the comment period and generally relate to migratory bird hunting regulations, they are treated as comments.

2. *Frameworks for ducks and geese in the continental United States.* Michigan requested that the framework provide for a goose hunting season opening as early as September 15 in the Upper Peninsula.

Response. The Service does not concur with the earlier September framework for hunting geese inasmuch as the change seems contrary to objectives of existing goose management plans.

Michigan requested that the hunting season applicable to the Southeastern Michigan Goose Management Area be lengthened from 107 to 123 days.

Response. The U.S.-Canada migratory bird treaty limits hunting seasons to 3½ months. The requested increase for southeastern Michigan exceeds this treaty limitation.

A hunter requested that the Tennessee duck season extend through January 31.

Response. The Service believes it unwise to alter duck season framework dates pending completion of an investigation of an experimental framework extension in Mississippi. This position is supported by the Lower Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council.

11. *Canvasback and redhead ducks.* The Upper Region Regulations Committee, Mississippi Flyway Council, and the involved States recommended removal of the Michigan and Wisconsin canvasback closure areas which no longer appear to attract canvasbacks during fall migration. The group also recommended that implementation of the Atlantic Flyway special canvasback season proposal (see 46 FR 18673) be based on certain population criteria.

Response. The Service believes it unwise to relax regulations for this species in view of anticipated poor production this year. Justification of such requests should be based on surveys undertaken to coincide with the usual period of canvasback occurrence. The Service is deferring implemention of the Atlantic Flyway proposal during the

1981–82 season in view of poor production prospects.

12. *Zoning.* Eight comments related to new zoning studies or to modifications of zoning studies presently underway. In the Atlantic Flyway, Maine and Pennsylvania requested changes in their zone boundaries. These changes were endorsed by the Atlantic Waterfowl Council. A similar request was received from Illinois, and the Upper Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council endorsed it and a proposal to zone Indiana for goose season selection purposes. The Michigan Citizen's Waterfowl Advisory Committee, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and Michigan Ducks Unlimited submitted comments in support of Michigan's request to establish 3 zones for duck hunting. A sportsman's group in Fargo, North Dakota, submitted comments in support of zoning and three-way split season options for the Central Flyway.

Response. The accompanying frameworks incorporate most of the zoning options and modifications recommended by the above correspondents. The exception is Michigan's request to establish 3 new zones to replace the 2 zones which were established last year. The Service believes it desirable to complete and evaluate the 3-year zoning experiment initiated last year in Michigan before making further changes.

13. *Goose and brant seasons.* Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York, with Atlantic Flyway Council endorsement, requested that the Canada goose season be lengthened to 90 days (from 70 days) and that the framework closing date be extended through January 31, 1982. Increasing crop depredations and nuisance complaints about these geese, many of which reside there throughout the year, prompted the request.

Response. The Service is cognizant of growing complaints about Canada geese in this area and proposes to grant the requested relaxations as an effort to alleviate these problems.

The Atlantic Flyway Council, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Waterfowlers Association, and Burlington County Ducks Unlimited Chapter recommended that the snow goose hunting season be similarly extended to 90 days through the flyway. Increasing crop depredations and damage to coastal wetlands were given as justifications.

Response. The Service notes that Altantic Flyway snow geese remain at a relatively high population level and concurs with the recommendation.

New Jersey and the Altantic Flyway Council proposed that the brant season be reopened throughout the flyway in recognition of the improved status of the species and anticipated good production. The season has been closed since 1975–76.

Response. The Service concurs with the proposal and the attached frameworks provide for a limited brant season of 30 days with 2 birds in the daily bag and 4 in possession. With average production, the fall flight should approximate 130,000 birds, a level adequate to sustain a limited hunting season. Field observations will be made this fall to ascertain the actual production success, and supplies of sea lettuce, a major food item of brant in New Jersey, will be monitored.

26. *Special Falconry Frameworks.* Michigan recommended that a framework of 181 days from September 1, 1981, through February 28, 1982, be established within which falconry seasons could be set for designated migratory game birds.

Response. The Service does not favor establishing differential framework lengths and opening and closing dates simply because a different means of taking than by shotgun or archery is involved. It appears that ample opportunity already exists for falconry during the regular and extended hunting seasons.

Public Comment Invited

Based on the results of recently completed migratory game bird studies and having due consideration for any data or views submitted by interested parties, the amendments resulting from these supplemental proposals will specify open seasons, hours, areas, and bag and possession limits for waterfowl, coots, and gallinules; sandhill cranes in portions of the Central Flyway; and snipe in the Pacific Flyway.

The Secretary intends that finally adopted rules be as responsive as possible to all concerned interests. He therefore desires to obtain the comments and suggestions of the public, other concerned governmental agencies, and private interests on these proposals and will take into consideration the comments received. Such comments, and any additional information received, may lead the Secretary to adopt final regulations differing from these proposals.

Special circumstances which limit the amount of time which the Service can allow for public comment are involved in the establishment of these regulations. Specifically, two considerations compress the time in which the rulemaking process must operate: the need to establish final rules at a point early enough in the summer to allow affected State agencies to appropriately adjust their licensing and regulatory mechanisms, and the unavailability before late July of specific, reliable data on year's status of waterfowl. Therefore, the Service believes that to allow a comment period past August 24, 1981, is contrary to the public interests.

Comment Procedure

It is the policy of the Department of the Interior, whenever practicable, to afford the public an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. Accordingly, interested persons may participate in this rulemaking process by submitting written comments to the Director (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments received will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Service's office in Room 525–B in the Matomic Building, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20240.

All relevant comments received on the late season proposals no later than August 24, 1981, will be considered. The Service will attempt to acknowledge received comments, but substantive response to individual comments may not be provided.

Nontoxic Shot Regulations

On June 12, 1981, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (46 FR 21010) proposed rules describing nontoxic shot zones for waterfowl hunting. When eaten by waterfowl, spent led pellets can have a toxic effect. Nontoxic shot zones reduce availability of lead pellets in selected waterfowl feeding areas. The final regulations on nontoxic shot zones will be published in August 1981.

NEPA Consideration

The "Final Environmental Statement for the Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (FES 75–54)" was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality on June 6, 1975, and notice of availability was published in the **Federal Register** on June 13, 1975 (40 FR 25241). In addition, several environmental assessments have been prepared on specific matters which serve to supplement the material in the Final Environmental Statement. Copies of these documents are available from the Service.

Endangered Species Act Consideration

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act provides that, "The Secretary shall review other programs administered by him and utilize such programs in furtherance of the purposes of this Act," and "by taking such action necessary to insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out * * * is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of such endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or modification of habitat of such species * * * which is determined to be critical."

Consequently, the Service reviewed all regulations frameworks being contemplated this year for season lengths, limits, shooting hours, and outside dates within which States may select general seasons for waterfowl, coots, and gallinules; extra teal in regular seasons; special scaup seasons; whistling swan seasons in 3 western States; sandhill crane seasons in portions of the Central Flyway and southeastern Arizona; and special falconry regulations. As a result of intra-Service Section 7 consultation, the Chief, Office of Endangered Species, stated in a biological opinion dated July 30, 1981, "* * * your action, as proposed, is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the above listed species [Aleutian Canada goose, bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, Arctic peregrine falcon, and whooping crane] and is not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of any designated Critical Habitat." As reported in the **Federal Register** dated July 13, 1981 (at 46 FR 36060), and July 29, 1981 (at 46 FR 38869), Section 7 consultations for the proposed frameworks for Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands were concluded on May 15, 1981, and for other proposed early season frameworks on June 15, 1981, with satisfactory biological opinions.

As in the past, hunting regulations this year are designed, among other things, to remove or alleviate chances of conflict between seasons for migratory game birds and the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species.

The Service's biological opinions resulting from its consultation under Section 7 are considered public documents and are available for public inspection in the Office of Endangered Species and the Office of Migratory Bird Management, Department of the Interior.

Regulatory Flexibility Act and Executive Order 12291

Pursuant to Executive Order 12291, the Department has determined that this rule is a major rule, and has significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). In the **Federal Register** dated March 25, 1981 (at 46 FR 18669), the Service described measures it was taking to comply with new requirements on Federal agencies in developing new rules. A summary of an initial regulatory impact analysis was included in the same **Federal Register**.

The Service subsequently completed a final regulatory impact and flexibility analysis (FRIA) on June 30, 1981, and will publish a summary of it in the final rule amending 50 CFR Part 20, subpart K, to be published in the near future.

The Service's FRIA was planned so that it would suffice for both the early and late season final regulations. Copies of the final analysis are available upon request from the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, NW., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Authorship

The primary author of this final rule is Henry M. Reeves, Office of Migratory Bird Management, working under the direction of John P. Rogers, Chief.

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Proposed Regulations Frameworks for 1981-82 Late Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Secretary of the Interior has approved proposed frameworks for season lengths, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and outside dates within which States may select seasons for hunting waterfowl, coots, and gallinules; cranes in parts of New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Montana, Wyoming, and Arizona; and common snipe in the Pacific Flyway. Frameworks are summarized below. States may be more restrictive in selecting season regulations, but may not exceed the framework provisions.

GENERAL

Split Season: States in all Flyways may split their season for ducks or geese into two segments of equal or unequal lengths. States in the Atlantic and Central Flyways may, in lieu of zoning, split their season for ducks or geese into three segments of equal or unequal lengths. Exceptions are noted in appropriate sections.

Shooting Hours: Between one-half hour before sunrise and sunset daily in all States, for all species, and for all seasons. The hours noted here also apply to hawking (taking by falconry).

Extra Blue-winged Teal: States in the Mississippi and Central Flyways selecting neither a teal or early duck season in September nor the point system may select an extra daily bag and possession limit of 2 and 4 blue-winged teal, respectively, for 9 consecutive days designated during the regular duck season. These extra limits are in addition to the regular duck bag and possession limits.

Extra teal: States in the Atlantic Flyway (except Florida) not selecting the point system may select an extra teal limit for 9 consecutive days during the regular duck season of no more than 2 blue-winged teal or 2 green-winged teal or 1 of each daily and no more than 4 singly or in the aggregate in possession.

Special Scaup-only Season: States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a special scaup-only hunting season not to exceed 16 consecutive days, with daily bag and possession limits of 5 and 10 scaup, respectively, subject to the following conditions:

1. The season must fall between October 1, 1981, and January 31, 1982, all dates inclusive.

2. The season must fall outside the open season for any other ducks except sea ducks.

3. The season must be limited to areas mutually agreed upon between the State and the Service prior to September 1, 1981.

4. These areas must be described and delineated in State hunting regulations.

OR

Extra Scaup: As an alternative, States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways, except those selecting a point system, may select an extra daily bag and possession limit of 2 and 4 scaup, respectively, during the regular duck hunting season, subject to conditions 3 and 4 listed above. These extra limits are in addition to the regular duck limits and apply during the entire regular duck season.

Point System: Selection of the point system for any State entirely within a flyway must be on a statewide basis, except if New York selects the point system, conventional regulations may be retained for the Long Island Area. New York may not select the point system within the Upstate zoning option, and Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia may not select the point system pending completion of zoning studies.

Deferred Season Selections: States that did not select their rail, woodcock, snipe, gallinule, and sea duck seasons in July should do so at the time they make their waterfowl selections.

Frameworks for open seasons and season lengths, bag and possession limit options, and other special provisions are listed below by Flyway.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers

Outside Dates: Between October 1, 1981 (except in Florida), and January 20, 1982.

Hunting Season: 50 days.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits (including restrictions on black ducks): (a) basic daily bag and possession limits of 4 and 8 ducks, respectively, of which no more than 2 in the daily bag and 4 in possession may be black ducks; or (b) basic daily bag and possession limits of 5 and 10 ducks, respectively, of which no more than 1 in the daily bag and 2 in possession may be black ducks.

Canvasbacks and Redheads: Except in closed areas, the limit on canvasbacks is 1 daily and 1 in possession. The limit on redheads throughout the flyway is 2 daily, except that in areas open to canvasback harvest the daily bag limit is 2 redheads, or 1 redhead and 1 canvasback. The possession limit on redheads is twice the daily bag limit under conventional regulations. The canvasback possession limit is equal to the daily bag limit. Under the point system, canvasbacks (except in closed areas) count 100 points each and redheads flywaywide count 70 points each. Areas closed to canvasback hunting are:

New York - Upper Niagara River between the Peace Bridge at Buffalo, New York, and the Niagara Falls. All waters of Lake Cayuga.

New Jersey - Those portions of Monmouth County and Ocean County lying east of the Garden State Parkway.

Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina - Those portions of each State lying east of U.S. Highway 1.

The experimental canvasback season endorsed for areas now closed to canvasback hunting will not be initiated in 1981-82 because of poor production during the 1981 canvasback breeding season.

Restrictions on Wood Ducks: Under conventional and point system options, the daily bag and possession limits may not include more than 2 and 4 wood ducks, respectively.

Early Wood Duck Season Option: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia may split their regular hunting season so that a hunting season not to exceed 9 consecutive days occurs between October 1 and October 15. During this period under conventional regulations, no special restrictions within the regular daily bag and possession limits established for the flyway in 1981 shall apply to wood ducks. Under the point system, wood ducks shall be 25 points. For other ducks, daily bag and possession limits shall be the same as established for the flyway under conventional or point system regulations. For those States using conventional regulations, the 9 consecutive days extra teal option may be selected concurrent with the early wood duck season option. This exception to the daily bag and possession limits for wood ducks shall not apply to that portion of the duck hunting season that occurs after October 15.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit on mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is 10, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

Coot Limits: The daily bag and possession limits of coots are 15 and 30, respectively.

Lake Champlain Area, New York Follows Vermont: The Lake Champlain Area of New York must follow the waterfowl seasons, daily bag and possession limits, and shooting hours selected by Vermont. This area includes that part of New York lying east and north of a boundary running south from the Canadian border along U.S. Highway 9 to New York Route 22 south of Keeseville, along New York Route 22 to South Bay, along and around the shoreline of South Bay to New York Route 22, along New York Route 22 to U.S. Highway 4 at Whitehall, and along U.S. Highway 4 to the Vermont border.

Special Scaup and Goldeneye Season: In lieu of a special scaup season, Vermont may, for the Lake Champlain Area, select a special scaup and goldeneye season not to exceed 16 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 3 scaup or 3 goldeneyes or 3 in the aggregate and a possession limit of 6 scaup or 6 goldeneyes or 6 in the aggregate, subject to the same provisions that apply to the special scaup season elsewhere.

Zoning:

Long Island: New York may, for Long Island, select season dates and daily bag and possession limits which differ from those in the remainder of the State.

Upstate New York: Upstate New York (excluding the Lake Champlain area) may be divided into three zones (West, North, South) on an experimental basis for the purpose of setting separate duck, coot and merganser seasons. Option (a) or (b) for seasons and bag limits is applicable to the zones in the Upstate area within the Flyway framework; only conventional regulations may be selected. Each zone will be permitted the full number of days offered under options (a) or (b). In addition, a 2-segment split season without penalty may be selected in each zone. The basic daily bag limit on ducks in each zone and the restrictions applicable to options (a) and (b) of the regular season for the Flyway also apply. Teal and scaup bonus bird options shall be applicable to the Upstate zones, but the 16-day special scaup season will not be allowed.

New York Zone Definitions: The zones are defined as follows:

The West Zone is that portion of Upstate New York lying west of a line commencing at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of the Salmon River to its intersection with Interstate Highway 81, then southerly along Interstate Highway 81 to the Pennsylvania border.

The North and South Zones are bordered on the west by the boundary described above and are separated from each other as follows: starting at the intersection of Interstate Highway 81 and State Route 49 and extending easterly along State Route 49 to its junction with State Route 365 at Rome, then easterly along State Route 365 to its junction with State Route 28 at Trenton,

then easterly along State Route 28 to its junction with State Route 29 at Middleville, then easterly along State Route 29 to its intersection with Interstate Highway 87 at Saratoga Springs, then northerly along Interstate Highway 87 to its junction with State Route 9, then northerly along State Route 9 to its junction with State Route 149, then easterly along State Route 149 to its junction with State Route 4 at Fort Ann, then northerly along State Route 4 to its intersection with the New York/Vermont boundary.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia: Maine may implement its current zoned season program on an operational basis. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and West Virginia each may be divided into two zones on an experimental basis for the purpose of setting separate duck, coot and merganser seasons. New Jersey may be divided into three zones and Pennsylvania may be divided into four zones for the same purpose. Option (a) or (b) for seasons and bag limits is applicable to the zones within the Flyway framework. Only conventional regulations may be selected in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. New Jersey must select the point system. Each zone will be permitted the full number of days offered under options (a) or (b). In addition, a two-segment split season without penalty may be selected. The basic daily bag limit on ducks in each zone and the restrictions applicable to options (a) and (b) of the regular season for the Flyway also apply. Teal and scaup bonus bird options, and the 16-day special scaup season shall be allowed.

Zone definitions:

Connecticut

North Zone - That portion of the State north of Interstate 95.

South Zone - That portion of the State south of Interstate 95.

Maine

North Zone - Game Management Zones 1 through 5.

South Zone - Game Management Zones 6 through 8.

Massachusetts

Coastal Zone - Beginning at the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border, that portion of the State east and south of a boundary formed by Interstate 95, south to U.S. Route 1, south to Interstate 93, south to Route 3, south to U.S. Route 6, southwest to Route 28, northwest to Interstate 195, and west to the Rhode Island line.

Inland Zone - That portion of the State west and north of the above boundary.

New Hampshire

Coastal Zone — Beginning at the Maine-New Hampshire line in Rollinsford, that portion of the State east of a boundary formed by State Highway 4 west to the city of Dover, south to the intersection of State Highway 108, south along State Highway 108 through Madbury, Durham, and Newmarket to the junction of State Highway 85 in Newfields, south to State Highway 101 in Exeter, east to State Highway 51 (Exeter-Hampton Expressway), east to Interstate 95 (New Hampshire Turnpike) in Hampton, and south to the Massachusetts line.

Inland Zone — That portion of the State west of the above boundary.

New Jersey

Coastal Zone — That portion of New Jersey seaward of a continuous line beginning at the New York State boundary line in Raritan Bay; then west along the New York boundary line to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then south on the Garden State Parkway to the shoreline at Cape May City and continuing to the Delaware boundary in Delaware Bay.

North Zone - That portion of New Jersey west of the Coastal Zone and north of a boundary formed by Route 70, west to the New Jersey Turnpike, north on the turnpike to Route 206, north on Route 206 to Route 1, Trenton, west on Route 1 to the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River.

South Zone - That portion of New Jersey not within the North Zone or the Coastal Zone.

Pennsylvania

Lake Erie Zone - The Lake Erie waters of Pennsylvania and a shoreline margin along Lake Erie from New York on the east to Ohio on the west extending 150 yards inland, but including all of Presque Isle Peninsula.

North Zone - That portion of the State north of I-80 from the New Jersey-State line west to the junction of State Route 147, then north on State Route 147 to the junction of Route 220, then west and/or south on Route 220 to the junction of I-80, then west on I-80 to its junction with the Allegheny River, and then north along but not including the Allegheny River to the New York border.

Northwest Zone - That portion of the State bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and the New York line, on the east by and including the Allegheny River, on the south by Interstate Highway I-80, and on the west by the Ohio line.

South Zone - The remaining portion of the State.

West Virginia

Allegheny Mountain Upland Zone (contained with the circumscribed boundaries below).

The north boundary is the State line adjacent to Pennsylvania and Maryland. The eastern boundary extends south along U.S. Route 220 through Keyser, West Virginia, to the intersection of U.S. Route 50, and follows U.S. Route 50 to the intersection with State Route 93. The boundary follows State Route 93 south to the intersection with State Route 42 and continues south on State Route 42 to Petersburg. At Petersburg, the boundary follows State Route 28 south to Minnehaha Springs, and then follows State Route 39 west to U.S. Route 219 and follows 219 south to the intersection of Interstate 64. The southern boundary follows I-64 west to the intersection with U.S. Route 60, and follows Route 60 west to the intersection of U.S. Route 19. The western boundary follows Route 19 north to the intersection of I-79, and follows I-79 north to the Pennsylvania State line.

Remainder of the State - That portion outside the above boundaries.

Point System Option for all States in the Atlantic Flyway: As an alternative to conventional bag limits for ducks, a 50-day season with a point-system bag limit may be selected by States in the Atlantic Flyway during the framework dates prescribed. Point values for species and sexes taken are as follows: in Florida only, the fulvous tree duck counts 100 points each; in all States the canvasback counts 100 points each (except in closed areas); the female mallard, black duck, mottled duck, wood duck (except in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia during the early wood duck season option), redhead, and hooded merganser count 70 points each; the blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, pintail, gadwall, wigeon, shoveler, scaup, sea ducks, and mergansers (except hooded) count 10 points each; the male mallard, the wood duck during the early wood duck season option in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and all other species of ducks count 25 points each. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken, added to the sum of the point values of the other birds already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit is the maximum number of birds which legally could have been taken in 2 days.

Sea Ducks: In any State in the Atlantic Flyway selecting both point-system regulations and a special sea duck season, sea ducks count 10 points each during the point-system season, but during any part of the regular sea duck season falling outside the point-system season, regular sea duck daily bag and possession limits of 7 and 14, respectively, apply.

Coot Limits: Coots have a point value of zero, but the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, respectively, as under the conventional limits.

Canada Geese

Outside Dates, Season Lengths, and Limits: Between October 1, 1981, and January 20, 1982, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia (excluding those portions of the cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake lying east of Interstate 64 and U.S. Highway 17) may select 70-day seasons on Canada geese; the daily bag and possession limits are 3 and 6 geese, respectively. However, in the area comprised of New York (including Long Island), Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, the Delmarva Peninsula portions of Maryland and Virginia, and that portion of Pennsylvania lying east and south of a boundary beginning at Interstate Highway 83 at the Maryland border and extending north to Harrisburg, then east on U.S. Highway 22 to the New Jersey border, the Canada goose season length may be 90 days with the closing framework date extended to January 31, 1982. The daily bag limit within this area (except New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) will be 4 birds with a possession limit of 8 birds. The daily bag and possession limits in New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut will be 3 and 6, respectively. North Caroline and those portions of the cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake lying east of Interstate 64 and U.S. Highway 17 in Virginia may select 50-day seasons on Canada geese within the October 1, 1981, to January 20, 1982, framework; the daily bag and possession limits are 2 and 4 Canada geese, respectively. South Caroline may select a 50-day season on Canada geese within the October 1, 1981, to January 20, 1982, framework; the daily bag and possession limits are 1 and 2 Canada geese, respectively.

Closures on Canada Geese: The season is closed on Canada geese in Florida and Georgia.

Snow Geese

Snow Geese: Between October 1, 1981, and January 31, 1982, States in the Atlantic Flyway may select 90-day seasons on snow geese (including blue geese); the daily bag and possession limits are 4 and 8 geese, respectively.

Atlantic Brant

Hunting Season: Between October 1, 1981, and January 20, 1982, States in the

Atlantic Flyway may select 30 consecutive day seasons on Atlantic brant; the daily bag and possession limits are 2 and 4 brant, respectively.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers

Outside Dates: Between October 3, 1981, and January 20, 1982, in all States except that in Iowa the framework opening date is September 19 and in Mississippi the framework closing date is January 31.

Hunting Season: Not more than 50 days.
Limits: The daily bag limit for ducks is 5, and may include no more than 3 mallards, no more than 2 of which may be female mallards, 1 black duck, and 2 wood ducks (except as noted below). The possession limit is 10, including no more than 6 mallards, no more than 4 of which may be female mallards, 2 black ducks, and 4 wood ducks (except as noted below).

Canvasback and Redhead Limits: Except in closed areas, the conventional limit on canvasbacks and redheads is 1 daily and 2 in possession for each species. Under the point system, canvasbacks count 100 points each (except in closed areas) and redheads count 70 points each.

Closed Areas for Canvasback Hunting:

Mississippi River - Entire river, both sides, from Alton Dam upstream to Prescott, Wisconsin, at confluence of St. Croix River.

Alabama - Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

Louisiana - Caddo, St. Charles, and St. Mary Parishes; that portion of Ward 1 formerly designated as Ward 6 of St. Martin Parish; and Catahoula Lake in LaSalle and Rapides Parishes.

Michigan - Arenac, Bay, Huron, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair, Tuscola, and Wayne Counties, and those adjacent waters of Saginaw Bay south of a line extending from Point au Gres in Sec. 6, T18N, R7E (Arenac County) to Sand Point in Sec. 11, T17N, R9E (Huron County), the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie, under jurisdiction of the State of Michigan.

Minnesota - Douglas, Mahnomen, Polk, Pope, and Sibley Counties. Where the county line of any of the above counties crosses any portion of a lake, that entire lake is closed. In addition, all land in Sec. 13, T130N, R31W (i.e., land between Lake Christina and Pelican Lake) is closed.

Ohio - Land and water areas comprising Erie, Ottawa, and Sandusky Counties.

Tennessee - Kentucky Lake lying north of Interstate Highway 40.

Wisconsin - In the Mississippi River Zone, all that part of Wisconsin west of the Burlington-Northern Railroad in Grant, Crawford, Vernon, LaCrosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, and Pierce Counties. Also, the following lakes and waters, including a strip of land 100 yards wide adjacent to the shorelines thereof: Lake Poygan in Winnebago and Waushara Counties and Lakes Winneconne and Butte des Morts, including the connecting waters thereof, in Winnebago County.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit on mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is 10, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

Coot Limits: The daily bag and possession limits on coots are 15 and 30, respectively.

Point System Option: As an alternative to conventional bag limits for ducks, a 50-day season with point-system bag and possession limits may be selected by States in the Mississippi Flyway during the framework dates prescribed. Point values for species and sexes taken are as follows: except in closed areas, the canvasback counts 100 points; the redhead, female mallard, wood duck (except as noted below), black duck, and hooded merganser count 70 points each; the pintail, blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, wigeon, gadwall, shoveler, scaup, green-winged teal, and mergansers (except hooded merganser) count 10 points each; the male mallard and all other species of ducks count 25 points each. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken, added to the sum of the point values of the other birds already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit is the maximum number of birds which legally could have been taken in 2 days.

Coot Limits—Point System: Coots have a point value of zero, but the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, respectively, as under the conventional limits.

Early Wood Duck Season Option: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama may split their regular duck hunting seasons in such a way that a hunting season not to exceed 9 consecutive days may occur between October 3 and October 15. During this period, under conventional regulations, no special restrictions within the regular daily bag and possession limits established for the Flyway shall apply to wood ducks, and under the point system, the point value for wood ducks shall be 25 points. For other species of ducks, daily bag and possession limits shall be the same as established for the Flyway under conventional or point system regulations. In addition, the extra blue-winged teal option available to States in this Flyway that select conventional regulations and do not have a September teal season may be selected during this period. This exception to the daily bag and possession limits for wood ducks shall not apply to that portion of the duck hunting season that occurs after October 15.

Western Louisiana: In that portion of Louisiana west of a boundary beginning at the Arkansas-Louisiana border on Louisiana Highway 3; then south along Louisiana Highway 3 to Shreveport; then east along Interstate 20 to Minden; then south along Louisiana Highway 7 to Ringgold; then east along Louisiana Highway 4 to Jonesboro; then south along U.S. Highway 167 to Lafayette; then southeast along U.S. Highway 90 to Houma; then south along the Houma Navigation Channel to the Gulf of Mexico through Cat Island Pass—the season on ducks, coots and mergansers may extend 5 additional days, provided that the season opens no later than November 7, 1981. If the 5-day extension is selected, and if point-system regulations are selected for the State, point values will be the same as for the rest of the State.

Pymatuning Reservoir Area, Ohio: The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours in the Pymatuning Reservoir area of Ohio will be the same as those selected by Pennsylvania. The area includes Pymatuning Reservoir and that part of Ohio bounded on the north by County Road 306 known as Woodward Road, on the west by Pymatuning Lake Road, and on the south by U.S. Highway 322.

Zoning: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee may select hunting seasons on ducks, coots, and mergansers by zones described as follows:

Alabama: South Zone - Mobile and Baldwin Counties. North Zone - The remainder of Alabama. The season in the South Zone may be split.

Illinois: North Zone - That portion of the State north of a line running east from the Iowa border along Illinois Highway 17 to I-74, north along I-74 to I-80, then east along I-80 to the Indiana border. Central Zone - That portion of the State between the North and South Zone boundaries. South Zone - That portion of the State south of a line running east from the Missouri border along Illinois Highway 150 to Illinois Highway 4, north along Illinois Highway 4 to Illinois Highway 15, east along Illinois Highway 15 to I-57, north along I-57 to I-70, then east along I-70 to the Indiana border.

Indiana: North Zone - That portion of Indiana north of State Highway 18. South Zone - The remainder of Indiana.

Michigan: North Zone - That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the mouth of the Manistee River along the north bank to the U.S. 31 bridge, north on U.S. 31 to M-55, east on M-55 to M-37, south on M-37 to M-82, east on M-82 to U.S. 131, north on U.S. 131, then east on M-46 to Port Sanilac. South Zone - The remainder of Michigan.

Missouri: North Zone - That portion of Missouri north of a line running east from the Kansas border along U.S. Highway 54 to U.S. Highway 65, south along U.S. Highway 65 to State Highway 32, east along State Highway 32 to State Highway 72, east along State Highway 72 to State Highway 34, then east along State Highway 34 to the Illinois border. South Zone - The remainder of Missouri. Missouri may split its season in each zone into two segments.

Ohio: North Zone - The counties of Darke, Miami, Clark, Champaign, Union, Delaware, Licking, Muskingum, Guernsey, Harrison, and Jefferson and all counties north thereof. In addition, the North Zone also includes that portion of the Buckeye Lake area in Fairfield and Perry Counties bounded on the west by State Highway 37, on the south by State Highway 204, and on the east by State Highway 13. South Zone - The remainder of Ohio. Ohio may split its season in each zone into two segments.

Tennessee: Reelfoot Zone - Lake and Obion Counties, or a designated portion of that area. State Zone - The remainder of Tennessee.

Within each State: (1) the same bag limit option must be selected for both zones; and (2) if a special scaup season is selected for a zone, it shall not begin until after the regular season closing date in that zone.

Geese

Outside Dates, Season Lengths, and Limits: Between October 3, 1981, and January 20, 1982, States in this Flyway may select 70-day seasons on geese, with a daily bag limit of 5 geese, to include no more than 2 white-fronted geese. The possession limit is 10 geese, to include no more than 4 white-fronted geese. Regulations for Canada geese and exceptions to the above general provisions are shown below by State.

Outside Dates and Limits on Snow and White-fronted Geese in Louisiana: Between October 3, 1981, and February 14, 1982, Louisiana may select 70-day seasons on snow (including blue) and white-fronted geese by zones established for duck hunting seasons, with daily bag and possession limits as described in the above paragraph.

Canada Goose Closures: The season on Canada geese is closed in Arkansas and Louisiana.

Minnesota. In the:

(a) Lac Qui Parle Zone (described in State Regulations)—the season on Canada geese closes after 50 days or when 5,500 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 4.

(b) Southeastern Zone (described in State regulations)—the season for Canada geese may extend for 70 consecutive days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4.

(c) Remainder of the State—the season on Canada geese will be concurrent with the duck season. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4.

Iowa: The season may extend for 70 consecutive days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4.

Missouri. In the:

(a) Swan Lake Zone (described in State regulations)—the season on Canada geese closes after 70 days or when 20,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. Through November 20, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 4. After November 20, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4.

(b) Southeastern Area (east of U.S. Highway 67 and south of Crystal City)—State may select a 50-day season on Canada geese between December 1, 1981, and January 20, 1982, with a daily bag limit of 2 Canada geese and a possession limit of 4.

(c) Remainder of the State—the season on Canada geese will be concurrent with the duck season in the respective duck hunting zones. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese, and the possession limit is 4.

Wisconsin: The goose season is 50 days except in that portion of the State west of the Burlington—Northern Railroad in Grant, Crawford, Vernon, LaCrosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin, and Pierce Counties, where the season will be 70 days.

The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 20,000. In the Horicon and Central Zones (described in State regulations), the daily bag and possession limits are 1 Canada goose. Elsewhere in Wisconsin, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 2.

Illinois: 50-day seasons on geese may be selected by zones established for duck hunting seasons, except that in the South Zone the season will close no later than December 31. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 30,000, with 24,000 birds allocated to the Southern Illinois Zone (described in State regulations). The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4. The season on Canada geese in the Southern Illinois Zone will open November 6 and extend through December 31, 1981, or until the Zone's quota of 24,000 birds is reached, whichever occurs first.

Michigan. The goose season is 50 days, except in the Saginaw County Goose Management Area, where the season may be 70 days, and the Southeastern Canada Goose Management Area, where the season may extend for 107 days within the flyway framework dates. Boundaries of the above areas are described in State regulations. Daily bag and possession limits are as follows:

(a) Counties of Baraga, Dickinson, Delta, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee, and Ontonagon—the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4.

(b) Southeastern Canada Goose Management Area - Through November 14, the daily bag limit will be 1 Canada goose and the possession limit will be 2. From November 15 through November 30, the daily bag limit will be 2 Canada geese and the possession limit will be 4. For the remainder of the season, the daily bag limit will be 3 Canada geese and the possession limit will be 6.

(c) Remainder of the State—the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 2.

Ohio: The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4, except that in the counties of Ashtabula, Trumbull, Marion, Wyandot, Lucas, Ottawa, Erie, Sandusky, Mercer, and Auglaize, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 2.

Indiana: The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days, except in Posey County, where the season will be 50 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4. The goose seasons may be set by North and South Zones.

Kentucky: The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days, except in Hickman, Fulton, Carlisle, and Ballard Counties, where the season will be 50 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4.

Tennessee: The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days, except in Lake, Obion, Weakley, and Carroll Counties, and those portions of Gibson and Dyer Counties north of State Highway 20 and east of U.S. Highway 45W, where the season will be 50 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 2, except in that portion of the State west of State Highway 13, where the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4. The season on Canada geese is closed in that portion of Tennessee bounded on the north by State Highways 20 and 104, and on the east by U.S. Highways 45W and 45.

Mississippi: In the Sardis Reservoir Area (that area encompassed by Interstate Highway 55 on the west, State Highway 7 on the east, State Highway 310 on the north and State Highway 6 on the south), the season on Canada geese will be November 15 through December 14, 1981. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 2. In the remainder of the State, the season on Canada geese is closed.

Alabama: The season is closed on all geese in the counties of Henry, Russell, and Barbour. Elsewhere in Alabama, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the possession limit is 4.

Missouri and Illinois Quota Zone Closures: When it has been determined that the quota of Canada geese allotted to the Southern Illinois Zone and the Swan Lake Zone of Missouri will have been filled, the season for taking Canada geese in the respective area will be closed by the Director upon giving public notice through local information media at least 48 hours in advance of the time and date of closing.

Shipping Restrictions: Geese taken in Illinois and Missouri and in the Kentucky counties of Ballard, Hickman, Fulton, and Carlisle may not be transported, shipped or delivered for transportation or shipment by common carrier, the Postal Service, or by any person except as the personal baggage of licensed waterfowl hunters, provided that no hunter shall possess or transport more than the legally-prescribed possession limit of geese. Geese possessed or transported by persons other than the taker must be labeled with the name and address of the taker and the date taken.

CENTRAL FLYWAY

Ducks (including mergansers) and Coots

Outside Dates: Between October 3, 1981, and January 17, 1982, inclusive, in Central Flyway States and portions of States.

Hunting Season: The basic season may include no more than 60 days. States may split their seasons into 2 or, in lieu of zoning, 3 segments.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Conventional limits on ducks (including mergansers), singly or in the aggregate, are 5 daily and 10 in possession. The aggregate daily bag limit on ducks (including mergansers) may include no more than 1 canvasback (note areas closed to canvasback hunting), 1 redhead, 1 female mallard, 1 hooded merganser, and 2 wood ducks. The possession limit may include no more than 1 canvasback (note areas closed to canvasback hunting), 2 redheads, 2 female mallards, 2 hooded mergansers, and 4 wood ducks. The daily bag and possession limits on coots are 15 and 30, respectively.

Closures. Areas closed to canvasback hunting are:

North Dakota - that portion lying east of State Highway 3, including all or portions of 27 counties.

South Dakota - all of Marshall County; that portion of Day County east of State Highway 25; that portion of Codington County south of State Highway 20 and west of U.S. Highway 81; that portion of Hamlin County west of U.S. Highway 81; and that portion of Kingsbury County east of State Highway 25 and north of U.S. Highway 14.

Point System Option in the Central Flyway: As an alternative to conventional bag and possession limits for ducks, point-system regulations may be selected for States and portions of States in this Flyway. The point system season length in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit is 83 days provided that the last 23 days of such season must begin on or after December 12, 1981. The High Plains Unit, roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway which lies west of the 100th meridian, shall be described in State regulations. The season length for the Low Plains Unit (those portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas not included in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit) may not exceed 60 days.

Point Values: Canvasbacks count 100 points each (note areas closed to canvasback hunting); female mallards, Mexican-like ducks, mottled ducks (Texas only), wood ducks, redheads, and hooded mergansers count 70 points each; blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, scaup, pintails, gadwalls, wigeon, shovelers, and mergansers (except the hooded merganser) count 10 points each; all other species and sexes of ducks count 20 points each. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken, when added to the sum of the point values of other birds already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit is the maximum number of birds which legally could have been taken in 2 days. Coots have a point value of zero, but the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, respectively, as under the conventional limits.

Portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming in Pacific Flyway: Those portions of Colorado and Wyoming lying west of the Continental Divide, that portion of New Mexico lying west of the Continental Divide plus the entire Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, and that portion of Montana which includes the counties of Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher, and Park and all counties west thereof, must select open seasons on waterfowl and coots in accordance with the framework for the Pacific Flyway.

Zoning: Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming may select hunting seasons on ducks, coots, and mergansers by zones described as follows:

Kansas: Two zones in the Low Plains portion of the State as follows:

Zone 1. That portion of south-central Kansas bounded by the State line and the following highways: on the west by U.S. 283; on the north by K-4, U.S. 81, U.S. 56, K-150, and U.S. 50; and on the east by K-99.

Zone 2. The remaining area within the Low Plains of Kansas.

Nebraska: Four zones within the Low Plains portion of the State as follows:

Zone 1. Keya Paha County east of U.S. Highway 183 and all of Boyd, Knox, Cedar, and Dixon Counties, including the adjacent waters of the Niobrara River.

Zone 2. The Low Plains portions of Dawson, Gosper, Frontier, and Furnas Counties and all of Buffalo, Phelps, Harlan, Hall, Kearney, Franklin, Merrick, Hamilton, Platte, Polk, Colfax, Butler, Dodge, Saunders, and Douglas Counties, including the adjacent waters of the Platte River.

Zone 3. The Low Plains portions of Brown, Blaine, and Custer Counties and all of Rock, Holt, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, Howard, Antelope, Boone, Nance, Pierce, Madison, Wayne, Stanton, Cuming, Dakota, Thurston, Burt, and Washington Counties.

Zone 4. Adams, Webster, Clay, Nuckolls, York, Fillmore, Thayer, Seward, Saline, Jefferson, Lancaster, Gage, Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties.

South Dakota: Two zones within the Low Plains portion of the State as follows:

South Zone. Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Gregory, Union, and Yankton Counties.

North Zone. The remainder of the Low Plains portion of South Dakota.

Wyoming: Four zones in the Central Flyway portion as follows:

Zone 1. Sheridan, Johnson, Natrona, Campbell, Crook, Weston, Converse, and Niobrara Counties.

Zone 2. Platte, Goshen, and Laramie Counties.

Zone 3. Carbon and Albany Counties.

Zone 4. Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Washakie, and Fremont Counties.

Geese

Outside Dates: States in the Central Flyway may select goose seasons between October 3, 1981, and January 17, 1982, inclusive, (except as noted for New Mexico).

West Tier States.

Montana: For its Central Flyway portion, Montana may select a season of 93 days. The daily bag and possession limits are 2 and 4 geese, respectively, in Sheridan County, and 3 and 6 geese, respectively, in the remainder of the Central Flyway portion.

Wyoming: Wyoming may select seasons of 93 days with daily bag and possession limits of 2 and 4 geese, respectively, for each of four Goose Management Units, which coincide with management zones for ducks, in the Central Flyway portion.

Colorado: Colorado may select, for the Central Flyway portion a season of 93 days, with daily bag and possession limits of 2 and 4 geese, respectively.

New Mexico: New Mexico, for the Central Flyway portion, may select a season of 93 days during the period October 3, 1981, through February 14, 1982 except that only light geese may be taken after January 17, 1982. The daily bag limit is 5 geese which, through January 17, 1982, may include no more than 2 dark geese.

Texas (west of U.S. 81): Texas, for that portion west of U.S. Highway 81, may select a season of 93 days with a daily bag limit of 5 geese which may include no more than 2 dark (Canada and white-fronted) geese and a possession limit of 10 geese which may include no more than 4 dark geese.

East Tier States - Light geese.

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas (for that portion east of U.S. Highway 81) may select seasons for light (Ross' and snow, including blue) geese of 86 days with daily bag limits of 5 and possession limits twice the daily bag limits.

East Tier States - Dark geese. States in this tier may select seasons on dark (Canada and white-fronted) geese of 72 days (except in Nebraska and South Dakota as noted) as follows:

North Dakota: The daily bag limits may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose or 2 white-fronted geese through October 31, 1981, and no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each during the remainder of the season.

South Dakota: In Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Charles Mix, Corson, Dewey, Gregory, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp (east of U.S. Highway 183), and Yankton (west of U.S. Highway 81) Counties, the season length may not exceed 79 days and the daily bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose through November 13, 1981, and no more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose for the remainder of the season. In the remainder of the State, the season length may not exceed 72 days and the daily bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose.

Nebraska: In Goose Management Unit 1 comprised of Boyd, Cedar (west of U.S. Highway 81), Keya Paha (east of U.S. Highway 183), and Knox Counties, the season length may not exceed 79 days and the daily bag limits may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose through November 13, 1981, and no more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose for the remainder of the season.

In Goose Management Unit 2, the remainder of Nebraska east of U.S. Highway 183, and in Goose Management Unit 3, that portion of Nebraska west of U.S. Highway 183, the daily bag limits may include no more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose through November 22, 1981, and no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose for the remainder of the season.

Kansas: The daily bag limit may include no more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose through November 28 and no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose during the remainder of the season.

Oklahoma: In Goose Management Unit 1 (that portion of Oklahoma west of U.S. Highways 77 and 177, the Indian Nation Turnpike, and U.S. Highway 271) and in Goose Management Unit 2 (the remainder of Oklahoma), the daily bag limits may include no more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose.

Texas: In that portion east of U.S. Highway 81, the bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose daily.

East Tier States Goose Possession Limits: Goose possession limits are twice the daily bag limits.

Sandhill Cranes

Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming may select sandhill crane seasons with daily bag and possession limits of 3 and 6, respectively, and during an October 3, 1981-January 31, 1982, framework as follows:

Colorado and Wyoming: 37 consecutive days during the period of October 3 through November 22, 1981, in the Central Flyway portion of Colorado except the San Luis Valley area, and in the Wyoming counties of Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte and Weston.

New Mexico and West Texas: 93 consecutive days between October 20, 1981, and January 31, 1982, in the New Mexico counties of Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt, and in that portion of Texas west of a boundary from the Oklahoma border along U.S. Highway 287 to U.S. Highway 87 at Dumas, along U.S. Highway 87 (and including all of Howard and Lynn Counties) to U.S. Highway 277 at San Angelo, and along U.S. Highway 277 to the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio.

Oklahoma and North Texas: 58 consecutive days on or after November 22, 1981, in that portion of Oklahoma west of U.S. Highway 81, and in that portion of Texas east of a boundary from the Oklahoma border along U.S. Highway 287 to U.S. Highway 87 at Dumas, then along U.S. Highway 87 to San Angelo, and west of a line running north from San Angelo along U.S. Highway 277 to Abilene, along State Highway 351 to Albany, along U.S. Highway 283 to Vernon, and then along U.S. Highway 183 east to the Oklahoma border.

Montana: 37 consecutive days, to open with the goose season, in all of the Central Flyway portion of Montana except Sheridan County and that area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 and the Big Horn River.

Permits: All persons hunting sandhill cranes in the above designated areas of the Central Flyway must obtain and possess valid Federal permits distributed by the appropriate State conservation agency on an equitable basis without charge.

Protection of Whooping Cranes: An emergency closure of the hunting season will be considered in an area where whooping cranes from either the Rocky Mountain or Wood Buffalo-Aransas flocks are found during periods when there is risk of their being taken by hunters.

PACIFIC FLYWAY

The Pacific Flyway includes the States of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, those portions of Colorado and Wyoming lying west of the Continental Divide, that portion of New Mexico lying west of the Continental Divide including the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, and that portion of Montana including and to the west of Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher, and Park Counties.

Ducks (including Mergansers), Coots, Gallinules, and Common Snipe

Outside Dates: Between October 3, 1981, and January 17, 1982.

Hunting Seasons: Concurrent 93-day seasons on ducks (including mergansers), coots, gallinules, and common snipe may be selected in Pacific Flyway States except as subsequently noted.

Duck Limits: Basic daily bag and possession limits on ducks (including mergansers) are 7 and 14, respectively. No more than 2 redheads or 2 canvasbacks or 1 of each may be taken daily and no more than 4 singly or in the aggregate may be possessed.

Coot and Gallinule Limits: The daily bag and possession limits on coots and gallinules are 25 singly or in the aggregate.

Common Snipe Limits: The daily bag and possession limits on common snipe are 8 and 16, respectively.

California—Waterfowl Zones: Season dates for the Colorado River Zone of California must coincide with season dates selected by Arizona. Season dates for the Northeastern Zone of California must coincide with season dates selected by Oregon. For the Southern Zone of California, the State may designate season dates differing from those in the remainder of the State.

Nevada—Clark County Waterfowl Zone: For Nevada, county of Clark, the State may designate season dates differing from those in the remainder of the State.

"Columbia Basin" Portions of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho: In the Idaho counties of Ada, Bannock, Benewah, Blaine, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Power, Shoshone, Twin Falls, Washington, and that portion of Bingham County lying outside the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; the Oregon counties of Baker, Gilliam, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco; and in Washington all areas lying east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County, the seasons may be 100 days and must run concurrently.

Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming — Common Snipe: For States partially within the Flyway 93-day seasons on common snipe between September 1, 1981, and February 28, 1982, may be selected.

Geese

Outside dates, season lengths, and limits on geese: Between October 3, 1981, and January 17, 1982, 93-day seasons on geese (except brant) may be selected in the Pacific Flyway States, except as subsequently noted. The basic daily bag and possession limits are 6, provided that the daily bag limit includes no more than 3 white geese (snow, including blue, and Ross' geese) and 3 dark geese (Canada and white-fronted geese); the daily bag and possession limits are proportionately reduced in those areas where special restrictions apply to Canada geese. In Washington and Idaho, the daily bag and possession limits are 3 and 6 geese, respectively.

Aleutian Canada goose closure: The season is closed on the Aleutian Canada goose. Emergency closures may be invoked for all Canada geese should Aleutian Canada goose distribution patterns or other circumstances justify such actions.

Canada goose closures in California: Three areas in California, described as follows, are restricted in the hunting of all Canada geese:

(1) In the counties of Del Norte and Humboldt there will be no open season on any Canada geese during the 1981-82 waterfowl hunting season.

(2) In the Sacramento Valley in that area bounded by a line beginning at Willows in Glenn County proceeding south on Interstate Highway 5 to the junction with Hahn Road north of Arbuckle in Colusa County; then easterly on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to Grimes on the Sacramento River; then southerly on the Sacramento River to the Tisdale By-pass; then easterly on the Tisdale By-pass to where it meets O'Banion Road; then easterly on O'Banion Road to State Highway 99; then northerly on State Highway 99 to its junction with the Gridley-Colusa Highway in Gridley in Butte County; then westerly on the Gridley-Colusa Highway to its junction with the River Road; then northerly on the River Road to the Princeton Ferry; then westerly across the Sacramento River to State Highway 45; then northerly on State Highway 45 to its junction with State Highway 162; then continuing northerly on State Highway 45-162 to Glenn; then westerly on State Highway 162 to the point of beginning in Willows, the hunting season for taking any Canada geese will not open until December 15, 1981, and may continue to the end of the 1981-82 waterfowl hunting season.

(3) In the San Joaquin Valley in that area bounded by a line beginning at Modesto in Stanislaus County proceeding west on State Highway 132 to the junction of Interstate Highway 5; then southerly on Interstate Highway 5 to the junction of State Highway 152 in Merced County; then easterly on State Highway 152 to the junction of State Highway 59; then northerly on State Highway 59 to the junction of State Highway 99 at Merced; then northerly and westerly to the point of beginning; the hunting season for taking any Canada geese will close on November 23, 1981.

"Columbia Basin" Portions of Washington and Oregon—geese: In the Washington counties of Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Walla Walla, and Yakima, and in the Oregon counties of Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco, the goose season may be of 100 days duration and must run concurrently with the duck season; and the bag limits for geese are to be the same as in the general goose season in their respective States.

Oregon (Lake and Klamath Counties) — geese: In the Oregon counties of Lake and Klamath the daily bag and possession limits through October 30 are reduced to 2 and 4 geese, respectively, with no more than 1 and 2, respectively, being dark geese. Thereafter, the limits may be increased to those which are allowed for the Flyway.

California (Northeastern Zone) — geese: In the Northeastern Zone of California through October 30, the limits are 1 dark goose or 1 white goose in the daily bag and 2 geese in possession. Thereafter, the limits may be increased to 4 geese in bag and possession with not more than 2 dark geese or 3 white geese being in either the daily bag or possession.

California (Balance of the State Zone) — geese: In the Balance of the State Zone the season shall not exceed 79 days. The daily bag and possession limits are 5, with not more than 2 dark geese or 3 white geese in either the daily bag or possession.

Pacific Population of Canada geese—Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming: In that portion of Idaho lying west of the line formed by U.S. Highway 93 north from the Nevada border to Shoshone, thence northerly on Idaho State Highway 75 (formerly U.S. Highway 93) to Challis, thence northerly on U.S. Highway 93 to the Montana border (except Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone, Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater and Idaho Counties); in the Oregon counties of Baker and Malheur; and in Montana (Pacific Flyway portion west of the Continental Divide), the daily bag and possession limits are 2 Canada geese and the season on Canada geese may not extend beyond December 31, 1981.

Rocky Mountain Population of Canada Geese—Montana and Wyoming: In Montana (Pacific Flyway portion east of the Continental Divide) and Wyoming the season may not extend beyond December 31, 1981.

Idaho, Colorado, and Utah: In that portion of Idaho lying east of the line formed by U.S. Highway 93 north from the Nevada border to Shoshone, thence northerly on Idaho State Highway 75 (formerly U.S. Highway 93) to Challis, thence northerly on U.S. Highway 93 to the Montana border; in Colorado; and in Utah, except Washington County, the daily bag and possession limits are 2 and 4 Canada geese, respectively, and the season on Canada geese may be no more than 83 days and may not extend beyond December 31, 1981.

Nevada—experimental zoning: For Nevada, the State may experimentally designate season dates on geese in Clark County and on geese in Elko County and that portion of White Pine County within Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge differing from those in the remainder of the State. The daily bag and possession limits are 2 Canada geese throughout the State.

Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, and New Mexico: In California, the Colorado River Zone where the season must be the same as that selected by Arizona and the Southern Zone; in Arizona; in New Mexico; in Clark County, Nevada; and in Washington County, Utah; the season on Canada geese may be no more than 86 days. The daily bag and possession limits are 2 Canada geese except in that portion of California Department of Fish and Game District 22 within the Southern Zone (i.e. Imperial Valley) the daily bag and possession limits on Canada geese are 1 and 2, respectively.

Washington—snow goose: In the Washington counties of Island, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom, the seasons on snow geese may not extend beyond January 3, 1982.

Pacific Brant

Between October 25, 1981, and February 22, 1982, States in this Flyway may select an open season on Pacific brant of 93 days with daily bag and possession limits of 4 and 8 brant, respectively.

Whistling Swans

In Utah, Nevada and Montana, an open season for taking a limited number of whistling swans may be selected subject to the following conditions: (a) the season must run concurrently with the duck season; (b) in Utah, no more than 2,500 permits may be issued, authorizing each permittee to take 1 whistling swan; (c) in Nevada, no more than 500 permits may be issued, authorizing each permittee to take 1 whistling swan in Churchill County; (d) in Montana, no more than 500 permits may be issued authorizing each permittee to take 1 whistling swan in either Teton or Cascade Counties; (e) permits and correspondingly numbered metal locking seals must be issued by the appropriate State conservation agency on an equitable basis without charge.

Sandhill Cranes

Arizona may select an experimental sandhill crane season subject to the following conditions:

1. The season may not exceed 4 days in November 1981.

2. The hunting area is confined to the Wilcox Basin Area defined as Game Management Units 30A, 30B, 31, and 32.

3. Each hunter must obtain and possess a special permit issued by the State. No more than 100 permits may be issued. The season limit is two sandhill cranes.

4. Other migratory bird hunting regulations shall apply.

5. The season on whooping cranes is closed. Emergency closures for all crane hunting may be invoked should circumstances justify such actions.

SPECIAL FALCONRY FRAMEWORKS

Extended Seasons: Falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State meeting Federal falconry standards in 50 CFR 21.29(k). These States may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

Framework Dates: Seasons must fall within the regular season framework dates and, if offered and accepted, other special season framework dates for hunting.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Falconry daily bag and possession limits for all permitted migratory game birds shall not exceed 3 and 6 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate, during both regular hunting seasons and extended falconry seasons.

Regulations Publication: Each State selecting the special season must inform the Service of the season dates and publish said regulations.

Regular Seasons: General hunting regulations, including seasons, hours, and limits, apply to falconry in each State listed in 50 CFR 21.29(k) which does not select an extended falconry season.

NOTE: In no instance shall the total number of days in any combination of duck seasons (regular duck season, sea duck season, September teal season, special scaup season, special scaup and goldeneye season, or falconry season) exceed 107 days for a species in one geographical area.

Dated: August 10, 1981.

G. Ray Arnett,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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